

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**REPORT OF THE
INTERIM COMMITTEE ON
INSTITUTIONAL AND SENTENCING
ALTERNATIVES**

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Representative Esther Haywood, Vice Chair
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INTRODUCTION

The House Interim Committee on Institutional and Sentencing Alternatives was formed at the authorization of House Speaker Jim Kreider. The charge to the Committee was as follows: "The House Interim Committee on Institutional and Sentencing Alternatives is charged with reviewing existing and investigating the establishment of additional regimented discipline programs." The Committee shall review all elements of eligibility for sentencing under the regimented discipline program including age and prior felony convictions. The Committee is further charged with reviewing the statutory expungement of court records for certain first time, non-violent convictions. The members of the Committee included Representatives Craig Hosmer (Chair); Esther Haywood (Vice Chair); Judy Berkstresser; Phil Britt; Larry Crawford; Steve Henderson; Rick Johnson; Cathy Jolly; Gary Kelly; Robert Mayer; and Carson Ross.

The committee met four times throughout the state: October 26, 2001 in St. Louis, Missouri; October 29, 2001 in Jefferson City, Missouri; October 30, 2001 in Kansas City, Missouri; and November 15, 2001 in Jefferson City, Missouri. Witnesses included state judges, department officials, and community members. A summary of their testimony appears in Appendix A.

The committee examined an alternative sentencing program for probationers in St. Louis, learned about current alternative programs within the Department of Corrections and spoke with inmates at the Jefferson City Correctional Center and from the Chillicothe Correctional Center. The committee also heard from community members in Kansas City about expungement statutes, the need to focus on rehabilitation, and the need for early intervention for at-risk individuals. The committee focused on four main issues throughout the hearings:

- Examining current programs;
- Exploring options to keep juvenile offenders and first-time offenders out of the criminal justice system and alternatives to incarceration for first time offenders;
- Promoting drug and alcohol treatment programs and job training for offenders while they are incarcerated; and
- Developing partnerships with state agencies, local governments, communities, and business officials to help offenders make the transition to the workforce after they are released.

Summary of Issues and Findings

The issues presented and findings made by the committee after hearing and reading testimony fall into five broad categories.

Current Programs

The Department of Corrections' current population is 28,567 offenders. Based on the latest information that is available (from FY 99), the cost to the state of housing inmates is \$13,000 per inmate, per year. Information from the Department of Corrections based on offenders' reports indicates that between 70% and 87% of offenders were involved with drugs and alcohol when they committed their crimes, although they are not necessarily incarcerated because of a drug offense. Currently, there are 2,858 beds for short and long term drug and alcohol treatment programs within the Department.

The Department indicated that it is currently coordinating with the Division of Youth Services to develop standardized guidelines for the Division's existing Youth Awareness Program. This program involves bringing young offenders and other young people into the prison in order to expose them to the realities of life in prison with the hope of deterring them from future criminal behavior. The Department will work with the Division to determine guidelines for the program, develop a consistent program for all institutions, and develop criteria to assess the effectiveness of the program. The Department may recommend an increase in the funding for this program in order to implement the changes recommended by the Department and the Division.

Among the drug and alcohol treatment programs available within the Department is the Intensive Therapeutic Community at the Jefferson City Correctional Center. This program is voluntary and involves peer mentoring, substance abuse counseling, isolation from other offenders, accountability to the group, and follow-up. The program is particularly successful because it is voluntary and the participants have realized that they need to make substantial lifestyle changes. It focuses primarily on attitude and lifestyle modifications. A group of long-term inmates started the group and formulated the program because they wanted to change how they were living within the institution. The Department also operated Therapeutic Communities at its other institutions throughout the state. The offenders who participate in these programs are ordered to do so by the court, and these programs focus primarily on drug and alcohol treatment, with a secondary focus on attitude and lifestyle modification.

The Department also operates short-term drug and alcohol treatment programs, pursuant to Section 559.115 RSMo. According to the Department, these programs are 120-day "shock" incarceration programs, and they account for much of the Department's substance abuse program resources.

Officials from the Department discussed existing boot camps and other regimented discipline

programs. They noted that while any program that provides offenders with discipline is more beneficial than not doing anything, national studies of boot camps indicate that they do not have a positive effect on offenders.

Although no formal testimony was heard about the existing Drug Court programs, several committee members commented that the existing Drug Courts in the state are successful and they should be continued and utilized throughout the state. The committee also commented that the state may want to look at a regional approach to judicial resources for drug courts.

Juvenile and First-Time Offenders

The committee also heard testimony about the need to have real consequences for first-time offenders, especially juveniles. Many of the offenders and former offenders who spoke with the committee indicated they had been in trouble at a young age, but they did not receive much more than a slap on the wrist for their first offenses. They stated that having harsher consequences at an earlier age may be a deterrent for many individuals.

It is important to have early intervention with offenders when they first enter the system in order to rehabilitate them and prevent further offenses, particularly for non-violent, first time offenders. Offenders who enter the system at an early age and are desensitized to incarceration are often not deterred by the prospect of future incarceration.

Research has shown that there is a relationship between stress and crime, and that those who have the least effective stress-coping skills are more likely to engage in anti-social or criminal behavior. Therefore, one way of preventing crime is to teach individuals effective stress-coping skills so that they can learn to deal with their environment in a socially acceptable manner and thus prevent them from entering the criminal justice system in the first place.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment

Most of the offenders and former offenders who spoke with the committee indicated that they had been involved with drugs and alcohol from an early age, and that their drug and alcohol use eventually played a role in the offenses they committed. Several individuals also indicated they had participated in a number of recovery programs before finally succeeding. According to testimony from the Department, substance abuse treatment programs are more effective the longer someone is involved in them. Much of the Department's substance abuse program resources go to the 120-day "shock" incarcerations under Section 559.115 RSMo. The committee also heard testimony about the problem of drugs within the institutions.

Job Training

The majority of offenders who are currently incarcerated will eventually be released. Testimony indicated that in order to prevent them from re-offending and to encourage them to be productive members of society, it is important to offer them job training and education while they are

incarcerated. It is vital that inmates learn skills that will help them get jobs once they are released. Several individuals who testified spoke of the need to teach inmates job skills that are applicable after release, as well as the willingness of members of the community who are skilled in a particular trade to teach those skills within the institutions.

Currently, the Department of Corrections operates work programs in conjunction with several state agencies as well as a few local governments. These programs have been in operation for fifteen years, and there have been very few problems with inmates walking away from the job site. However, there are only limited opportunities for inmates to participate in the program.

Community Involvement

Getting communities involved with the system, particularly encouraging local businesses to hire former inmates once they are released, is an important part of reducing recidivism rates. The Department of Corrections could work with the Department of Economic Development, businesses and other local organizations to develop job training and employment opportunities for offenders, both while they are incarcerated and after they are released. In addition, community-based sentencing, rehabilitation and treatment are particularly effective for early and non-violent felony offenders.

The committee also heard testimony that indicated community involvement is important in addressing juvenile offenders, as well as in providing treatment for offenders who have drug and alcohol abuse problems.

Recommendations

1. The Legislature should enact a criminal record expungement statute.

The key provisions of an expungement statute would include the following:

- A) The offender must petition the Court for expungement;
- B) The offender must notify the prosecuting attorney, who may object and be heard at a hearing before the court;
- C) The offender must notify and gain the consent of the victim or victims;
- D) The offender must have been released from confinement or probation and parole and crime-free for ten years;
- E) Only non-violent Class C and D felonies may be expunged;
- F) Law Enforcement will always have access to the information expunged,
- G) Certain other specified groups will be able to access the same records as are available to law enforcement officials.

2. The Dual Jurisdiction Statute (Section 211.073 RSMo.) should be revised to allow the juvenile court to retain jurisdiction of a child's case after certification.

The Juvenile Court judge who makes the determination whether or not to certify a juvenile to stand trial in the Criminal Court has a great deal of information about the child's background, family history and juvenile court history. This information may not always be passed along to the Criminal Court judge after the juvenile is certified. Once the juvenile is certified, the Juvenile Court no longer maintains jurisdiction. Under the existing Dual Jurisdiction Statute, the Criminal Court judge may place the juvenile offender in a Division of Youth Services Facility until the age of 17. The revision suggested by Judge Williamson would allow the Juvenile Court judge to retain jurisdiction throughout the criminal case and sentence the offender to the Division of Youth Services at an earlier point in the case.

3. The Department of Corrections should work with the Department of Economic Development, communities, and trade organizations to determine and develop meaningful employment within the Department of Corrections, as well as appropriate job training programs for inmates who will eventually be returning to their communities.

The Department of Economic Development should survey the state to determine what services or products are not made in Missouri and then develop prison enterprises to fill this need. This type of program would provide goods or services to the state and private sector, but would not compete with existing businesses in the state. Missouri should use the labor of individuals who are incarcerated to produce products that can be sold outside the institution and outside state government and the profits can be used to offset the costs of incarceration.

4. The Department of Corrections should work with communities to establish community work details.

The Department should enhance its programs that put inmates to work in communities by developing a program whereby counties and cities make application to the Department for assistance with work projects they want to complete in their communities. The Department would then bring in nonviolent offenders who are within one to two years of their release to work for 180 day periods. If the offender successfully completes the program, he or she could qualify to be released 180 days early. Such a program could provide an incentive to inmates to successfully complete the program and give the inmate an opportunity to work in the community. It could also be used to offset the costs of incarceration.

5. Missouri should establish a Community Sentencing Program.

A community sentencing program would allow communities to establish community boards to make recommendations for sanctions other than prison for offenders who commit infractions, juvenile offenders and nonviolent offenders. With the approval of the local prosecutor, these programs could also make recommendations for non-adjudicated, non-violent Class D felony offenders.

6. Juvenile Offenders, both status offenders and criminal offenders, should have immediate consequences for their offenses.

There should be a meaningful response to juvenile offenses, not just a slap on the wrist, whether it be through the community, the juvenile court system, or another venue. A system should also be developed to share information between schools, juvenile offices, and law enforcement officials, so that early referrals can be made for services and so that juveniles don't fall through the cracks.

7. The Department of Corrections should make a renewed commitment to eliminate drugs and maximize drug rehabilitation opportunities within the institutions.

The Department of Corrections should coordinate with the University of Missouri to conduct a study of the Intensive Therapeutic Community program at the Jefferson City Correctional Center, as well as the youth offender programs throughout the Department to examine the results and effectiveness of these programs. If, as the Department believes, the results of this study are positive, the Department should also duplicate the Intensive Therapeutic Community program at the Jefferson City Correctional Center at all institutions and broaden the application of the program to all inmates.

8. The Department of Corrections should establish prison boards, composed solely of inmates to make recommendations to the institution regarding treatment and other programs offered within the institution, and for other programs to reduce the criminal offense rate and the recidivism rate.

This program could be a pilot project and would assist the Department of Corrections in determining the need for particular programs and treatment in individual institutions.

9. The Department of Corrections and juvenile officials should utilize former inmates to work for community based sentencing organizations and use the offender population to interact with young offenders to deter criminal conduct get the message out to young offenders.

Juvenile offenders need to be made aware of the consequences of their actions at an early age. There exists a population of current and former offenders who could be used to share their experiences with young offenders.

APPENDIX A

Summary of Testimony (In order of Appearance)

October 26, 2001
St. Louis, Missouri

Mr. Farrokh Anklesaria

Mr. Anklesaria is the Executive Director of The Enlightened Sentencing Project (TESP) in St. Louis Missouri. TESP combines his training as a barrister with his training in Transcendental Meditation (TM) in applying TM to the criminal justice system. Mr. Anklesaria testified that TESP was approved by Chief Justice Stephen Limbaugh of the Missouri Supreme Court in October 1996 and Judge David Mason of the 22nd Circuit began sentencing probationers to the program in September 1997. Since that time, more than 100 probationers have completed the program, and there are currently five St. Louis judges who refer probationers to the program. The program involves a 7-step, 26-lesson course, with six months of follow-up. It teaches holistic strategies to participants to help promote health and reduce their stress. Students are taught to meditate for 20 minutes in the morning and evening, and they become self-sufficient in reducing their stress levels.

Judge David Mason

Judge Mason of the 22nd Judicial Circuit began referring probationers to the TM program as a supplement to the existing probation and parole program. Judge Mason testified that TM is added to the conditions of probation for offenders who would already be sentenced to probation and who agree to the referral. No one is referred to the TM program in lieu of incarceration. There are approximately 100 people currently in the program. Of that group seven or eight have had their probation revoked and another 12 to 15 have had some problems. All offenders can benefit from the program, and as it is currently implemented, anyone eligible for probation can be referred to the program.

Judge Mason also testified about creating an expungement statute in Missouri. He testified that he favors a system that would require the individual to go to court for a hearing before a judge, allow the prosecuting attorney to object to the expungement, and provide notice to the prosecutor and victims. He indicated that striking non-violent felony offenses from an individual's record after a period of ten years would benefit many individuals.

Dr. Kofi Kondwani

Dr. Kondwani is employed by the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. He testified about the relationship between stress and crime. He stated that there is a direct relationship between the two, and the response of the mind and body to stress is important. Dr. Kondwani testified that TM means "beyond thinking" and involves sitting quietly with one's eyes closed for approximately 20 minutes.

Dr. Kondwani described a study that was conducted examining the effects of TM on hypertension in African Americans. Individuals age 55 and older went through a three month period of study and practice of meditation. After three months, tests showed that they had a reduction in their blood pressure, and after eight years, there were fewer deaths in the TM group.

Dr. Kondwani contends that introducing TM at an early age is positive and it can be used as a prevention technique to keep individuals out of the criminal justice system from an early age.

Judge Henry Autrey

Judge Autrey of the 22nd Judicial Circuit began using TM with probationers when he was assigned to a criminal division. Most of the probationers he refers to the program are first time offenders, but he also refers second- and third-time offenders to the program. Judge Autrey testified that TM resolves stress for probationers, improves their quality of life, promotes clearer thinking, makes them less argumentative and more calm. Since he started referring probationers to the TM program in 1997 and 1998, he has had a 7-10% recidivism rate among those probationers. Non-TM probationers typically return within 4-6 months with probation violations. Judge Autrey testified that he uses TM as part of holistic approach that also involves requiring probationers to obtain education and job training, to learn about the effects of drugs and alcohol in their lives, and to learn how to deal with anger and stress.

Mr. William Baker

Mr. Baker is a 43 year-old probationer that Judge Autrey referred to the TM program. He was referred to the TM program after being charged with selling crack cocaine, his second offense. He had previously been incarcerated and had participated in various drug treatment programs and Alcoholics Anonymous before he became involved in the TM program. Mr. Baker testified that he was skeptical about the program at first, but since learning TM his thoughts have become clearer, his blood pressure has gone down and he has generally felt better. The TM program has helped him relieve stress and has given him tools to deal with his environment. He now has a job and a driver's license and feels that he is a productive citizen.

Ms. Helen Young

Ms. Young testified that she had used drugs since 1983 or 1984, and that the TM program is the first program she has completed in fifteen years. Judge Autrey referred her to the program when she was charged with forgery and first degree tampering with a motor vehicle. She has been drug free for approximately seven months, and she meditates twice a day. She now has a job and a high school diploma and she testified that she feels better about herself.

Mr. Daniel Spring

Mr. Spring is a Probation and Parole officer who also practices TM. He has worked for Probation and Parole for six years, and has practiced TM for three. He testified that TM has resulted in improvements in the relationship between probation officers and probationers, and stated that he has seen positive results with the probationers on his caseload who practice TM.

Mr. David Magill

Mr. Magill testified that TM can reduce the costs of corrections, reduce recidivism among offenders, and save money for prisons due to a reduction in medical expenses and an improved quality of life. Savings can also be realized by teaching TM to correction officers.

Ms. Ina Boon

Ms. Boon is a NAACP Representative and testified about her interest in addressing the voting rights of individuals who are incarcerated.

October 29, 2001
Jefferson City, Missouri

Mr. Gary Kempker

Mr. Kempker testified that the Department of Corrections' current population is approximately 29,000, and of that population, 11,910 are violent offenders, 8,870 committed property offenses, 5,826 are drug offenses and 2,000 are incarcerated on other offenses. The Department believes that between 70% and 87% of the population were involved with drugs and alcohol when they committed their crimes, even though they are not necessarily incarcerated because of a drug offense. He testified that the Department of Corrections is currently working with the Division of Youth Services to ensure that the Division's goals for its Youth Awareness Program are being met by the Department and that the program is consistent between different institutions. They are working on developing ways to gauge the effectiveness of the program and to develop standardized guidelines for the program.

Dr. Jonathan Rosenboom

Dr. Rosenboom testified about existing substance abuse treatment, job training, and work programs within the Department of Corrections. He stated that assessment is a critical tool for meeting the needs of offenders, whether they need substance abuse treatment, education, or job training. He testified that while boot camps or other regimented discipline programs are more successful than not doing anything, national studies have indicated that these types of programs generally do not have a positive effect on offenders.

Currently, the Department of Corrections has a total of 2,858 beds available for short and long term drug and alcohol treatment. Of these beds, 1,443 are short-term beds, and 1,415 are long-term beds. The majority of the Department's short-term beds are utilized by individuals sentenced under Section 559.115 RSMo to a 120-day shock incarceration. The long term beds are utilized for the Department's 2-year substance abuse program, as well as Therapeutic Community treatment programs within the institutions.

The Department of Corrections also utilizes work programs within its institutions. Dr. Rosenboom testified that these work programs include partnerships with agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation, with cities and counties for road work and clean-up duties, and with some private work-release programs. He stated that in the 15 years the program has been in existence, only one or two offenders have walked away from a work location. The inmates who participate in the program are short-term inmates, and thousands have gone through the program. The Department of Corrections has a curriculum that it uses to train agency staff to supervise inmates who are on the work details; the Department of Corrections does not supervise inmates while they are working. Dr. Rosenboom also testified about the need for the Department to determine what vocational skills are in demand and then structure its job training programs accordingly so that offenders learn skills that are applicable in

the work force after they are released.

Mr. J. Marty Robinson - State Public Defender System

Mr. Robinson testified that the Public Defender System works with alternatives to sentencing at the judicial level, before an offender is sentenced to prison. Statistics show that boot camps generally don't work to rehabilitate offenders, but that job skill training is a successful tool for rehabilitation.

Mr. Rick Baker - State Public Defender System

Mr. Baker testified that regimented discipline programs have high recidivism rates. Other treatment programs are more successful when participants are involved in the program for longer periods of time. However, money for long-term programs has diminished in recent years. If funds were dedicated for alternative sentencing programs, there would be more opportunities to address the needs of youth offenders and keep them out of the system. Treatment in the community is less expensive than treatment in prison, and the state should look at providing more opportunities for community-based treatment for offenders.

Mr. Denis Agniel, Chair, Board of Probation and Parole

Mr. Agniel testified about the current workload and budget of the Board of Probation and Parole. He stated that Probation and Parole prioritizes its caseload based on risk and need. In years when the budget is tight, they have to focus on those most at risk for violations, and reduce services to others by putting low-risk individuals on minimal supervision. Two of the programs that are cost effective are intensive supervision and electronic monitoring.

Ms. Judy Henderson

Ms. Henderson is an inmate at the Chillicothe Correctional Center and has been incarcerated for 20 years. She helped develop the "I Want to Live" program, which focuses on the rebirth of the body, mind, and soul. She testified about the program's three phases: purifying the body, spiritual awareness, and developing social and communication skills. Although the program was never implemented because of the flood of 1993 and a lack of funding, Ms. Henderson testified that inmates would be able to implement this program themselves.

October 30, 2001
Kansas City, Missouri

Ms. Denise St. Omer

Ms. St. Omer testified in support of an expungement statute in Missouri. She stated that the lack of an expungement statute presents a conflicting message to offenders who are told to rehabilitate and try to improve their lives while incarcerated, but who are not allowed to do so once they are released. Former inmates often have difficulty obtaining employment because of their criminal history, even though they may have the qualifications for a job. She stated that

most expungement statutes are based on low level, non-violent felonies and allow the offender to petition for expungement if he or she has been crime-free for 10 years after being released from incarceration. Such an expungement statute could be an incentive for people convicted of felonies to stay out of trouble after they are released.

Ms. St. Omer also testified about the need to address the problem of the disproportionate confinement rates of minorities in the juvenile system. She noted that sometimes this is just a problem of outdated assessment tools at the juvenile level.

Senator Mary Bland, 9th District

Senator Bland sponsored expungement legislation in 1996 and 1997, but it did not pass. Expungement is a major issue for those with felony convictions because their conviction often poses a problem when these individuals are applying for employment. Senator Bland indicated that those who have made mistakes and turned their lives around should be able to get past their mistake.

Judge J.D. Williamson

Judge Williamson is a Circuit Judge in Jackson County. He is assigned to the Administrative and Family Court and hears juvenile court certification cases. Certification hearings focus on an offender's background. The judge is directed by statute to presume the offender is guilty and determine whether the juvenile is amenable to the services of the Family Court, such as drug and alcohol treatment, counseling, and placement in institutions or group homes. The judge considers the offense and hears the child's background, family history, and history of involvement with the Juvenile Court. Dual jurisdiction provides a bridge between the juvenile system, which is focused on rehabilitation, and the adult system, which is more focused on incarceration. Judge Williamson testified that under the current dual jurisdiction statute, a juvenile who is certified is out of the system until the prosecuting attorney files an indictment or information in criminal court. The statute allows the judge in the criminal case to then place an offender in a Division of Youth Services facility, where he or she is given the same treatment as other juvenile offenders, even though his or her conviction is from the adult Criminal Court. The program gives the offender the option of long-term treatment and allows the judge to determine whether the offender should be released or go to the adult system upon reaching the age of majority. Judge Williamson testified that the current statute is backward, and that the certification judge, rather than the criminal judge, has the best information to determine whether the offender would be best served in the adult system, the juvenile system, or in dual jurisdiction. He suggests changing the statute to allow the Juvenile Court judge to determine whether dual jurisdiction should be imposed and allowing the Juvenile Court to retain jurisdiction, even if the offender is later certified to Criminal Court.

Mr. Greg Lovelace, State Public Defender's Office

Mr. Lovelace works with the Alternative Sentencing Program doing assessments of individuals and trying to connect them with the services they need. He testified that the majority

of offenders have mental health issues and substance abuse issues, that many are mentally retarded and that several also have housing and homelessness issues. He stated that Jackson County judges are willing to look at alternatives, but some judges in smaller jurisdictions are not as willing. He suggested sharing information with smaller jurisdictions to give judges information about available services. He also testified about alternative sentences, aside from drug and alcohol treatment. These programs include shoplifting education programs, mental health treatment and job training programs. He stated that all of these programs are important and should be maintained.

Ms. Delmina O'Shaughnessy Quarles Kamehameha

Ms. Kamehameha is a Human Rights Activist and believes that alternatives to prison are needed. She testified that she sees a problem with plea bargaining in that too many people are pleading guilty based on the advice of their attorneys. She stated that people need to feel they have worth and that judges need to take a look at all of a person's problems, not just their offense. She testified that it is important to find alternative ways to keep people, especially young people busy and give them a sense of self-worth.

Ms. Cardelia Ralls

Ms. Ralls is the mother of a teen who committed a Class A felony and was sentenced to 25 years. She testified about her concern about what he will do when he is released. She testified that he has turned his life around, but she wonders what he will do, who will trust him and whether the system will help him when he is released. She believes that early contact with the criminal justice system was helpful for her son, but she didn't have the resources to fully deal with his problems before he committed his crime.

Ms. Shiriki Unganisha

Ms. Unganisha testified that she believes the state needs to stop its "lock-up" mentality when it comes to incarceration and spend money on education instead of incarceration. She also testified that she believes offenders should be given a second chance and that children should not be sent to prison without some rehabilitation.

Mr. Evans Broom

Mr. Broom testified that there is a need to take a new look at the criminal justice system and that the current system is creating a mentality of 'the system owes me' in the institutions. He testified that many young people lack opportunity and have no idea about how the criminal justice system works. He also stated that trade workers would be willing to go into institutions to teach inmates business and trade skills so that they have job skills when they are released.

Representative Melba Curls, 41st District

Representative Curls noted that many females who are incarcerated are in prison because they were with a boyfriend or husband when he committed a crime. She testified that the state needs to look at the effect of incarceration of women on families and children who are in the State's care. She also noted a need to examine threatened cuts in funding to Legal Aid services.

Ms. Tania Taylor

Ms. Taylor testified about the need for rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, particularly showing them what employment and career opportunities are available to them, and the training required for those opportunities.

Ms. Catina Taylor

Ms. Taylor testified about a need to change from a focus on punishment to a focus on rehabilitation. She also noted that juvenile offenders need to be involved with professionals through mentoring programs and educational incentives from an early stage to prevent future incarceration.

November 15, 2001
Jefferson City, Missouri

The Committee met with officials at the Jefferson City Correctional Center and toured the institution. During the tour the Committee observed a program that deals with first-time offenders and spoke with residents in the Intensive Therapeutic Community.

Mr. Gary Gross

Mr. Gross has been a Correctional Officer at the Tipton Correctional Center since 1985. He testified that he believes that drugs in the institutions are a big problem, and that revocation or limitation of visiting opportunities could be a deterrent or help stop the drug problem. He also testified about the need to restructure the education system within the Department of Corrections to teach inmates the skills necessary to get a job when they are released.

Mr. Harry Gallagher

Mr. Gallagher testified in opposition to an expungement statute. He testified that financial institutions need to know if they're hiring someone who has a criminal history, especially involving stealing, theft, and embezzlement.

Inmates from Chillicothe Correctional Center

Three female inmates from the Chillicothe Correctional Center testified via conference call. They all reported that drugs and alcohol played a role in the commission of their crimes, and that they started using drugs or alcohol before the age of 17. They testified that young people need to be made more aware of the ramifications of drug use, perhaps through using experienced speakers or ex-offenders to go into schools and talk to students freely about their experiences.

One inmate testified that having someone for young people to talk to, other than a parent, would also be helpful for some young people. All three testified that they are currently involved with Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous.

Mr. Tom Maxwell

Mr. Maxwell is a volunteer with the Inner Change Freedom Initiative, which is operated by Prison Fellowship Ministries. The Program is based on a model started in Brazil that pairs inmates who are within 18 months of release with mentors, helps them find jobs, and matches them with a mentoring church after their release. The program has a recidivism rate of approximately 9%, and Prison Fellowship Ministries matches the money the Department of Corrections puts into the program.